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More Charges Added in Suspected Serial Killer Case

A suspected serial killer was charged today with an additional murder and three attempted murders that occurred months before his alleged killing spree last August around the San Fernando Valley, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Alexander Hernandez, 34, pleaded not guilty today to the eight added counts before Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Stephen Marcus. Hernandez returns to court on May 5 in Department 102 at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center to set a date for his preliminary hearing in case PA081724. He is being held without bail.

Deputy District Attorney Michele Hanisee with the Major Crimes Division is prosecuting the case.

Prosecutors charged Hernandez with a March 14, 2014 murder and three attempted murders that occurred on April 27, May 14 and June 15, all in 2014. The amended complaint alleges Hernandez used a handgun in the earlier shootings and a shotgun during the attacks in August.

Hernandez is charged with fatally shooting Sergio Sanchez about 1 a.m. on March 14, 2014, as Sanchez was driving home from work on the 210 Freeway near the Roxford off ramp.

The first of three attempted murders occurred on April 27 when a man was shot while in his car that was parked outside his father's Pacoima apartment. The second occurred about 4 a.m. on May 14 when a Chatsworth teen was shot after driving his girlfriend home from their high school prom. One of the bullets struck his spine, causing paralysis.

The third attempted murder occurred about 6 a.m. on June 15 when a male victim was shot in the arm by a driver on the 210 Freeway.

In all, Hernandez is now charged with 30 counts:

- Five counts of capital murder
- Ten counts of attempted murder

- Seven counts of shooting at an occupied vehicle
- Three counts of cruelty to an animal
- Two counts of possession of a firearm by a felon
- One count of possession of ammunition by a felon
- Two counts of discharge of a firearm with gross negligence

In addition to the special circumstance murder filed today, Hernandez is charged with the Aug. 21 fatal shooting of Gilardo Morales and the Aug. 24 murders of Mariana Franco, Michael Planells and Gloria Tovar.

The special circumstances of multiple murders and shooting from an occupied vehicle make Hernandez eligible for the death penalty. Prosecutors will decide later whether to seek the death penalty.

The complaint alleges Hernandez has three prior convictions, including possession for sale of methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance with a firearm and possession of a firearm by a felon.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.